1777 Some Tuareg scrupulously practice fasting, and the different
1785 Moslem holidays are now followed punctually. But along with that
1795 they keep the ahal, monogamy, and matriarchy.

1774 Pagan survivals. -- Ten centuries of Islamism have not completely rid the Tuareg of their former beliefs. They still believe in the existence of an animated world peopled by elements acting visibly or invisibly, living in minerals, vegetables, water, etc. To be sure, these beliefs are growing blurred, dwindling and losing their intensity, but the Tuareg still live with them, even going so far as to practice certain rites, just as in the country in France.

Their belief in supernatural matter is more than we could possibly imagine. They believe in genii (ahinnen or imdounen) who
1776 inhabit the mountains, springs, steep places, and some trees. They
[1955] protect themselves from them by numerous talismans, which they beg from the marabouts, or by the practice of exorcizing. The women are even more credulous than the men on this point. They
1781 consult the dead by going to pray on their tombs and ask them news
1787 of those who are absent.

1778 Petrographic cults are still very much alive among the Tuareg.
1782 They believe that some stones are haunted, and to gain the good will of the spirits they place votive offerings in the form of pebbles nearby. Therefore, at the crossing of some mountain passes and some unavoidable paths one often finds enormous piles of stones imitating tumuli, or else many little piles placed on both sides of some camel trails. Some ancient tombs are the object of a quite peculiar worship, for example the one discovered at Tazerouk a few /308/ years ago by Captain Niéger. This tomb, on which lay several stone statuettes, polished axes, and numerous Neolithic objects, was still visited in recent years until the time when it was excavated by the French. The Tuareg deny this, of course, but the discovery of objects placed there recently (fragments of cloth,
1773 beads, etc.) proves it. The stone statues represented the Tibaradines,
1778 that is, "the maidens." They were supposedly a highborn woman
1782 and her servant who were turned into stone because the mistress